

# The Indianapolis Times

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## THE BATTLE IS ON

THE fight against exorbitant telephone rates is on. The public service commission is battling in the interest of the people against a corporation seeking to squeeze two profits from the business concerns and private telephone users of Indianapolis.

Business men are up in arms. The Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Association are in the fight in the interest of all the people.

This fight should continue until a showdown is reached. It should continue until we know once and for all whether the public has any control over a monopoly dealing in a necessity, or whether such a concern, having eliminated competition and the ordinary control of duly constituted officials, can rule according to its own sweet will.

The public service commission is planning an order to reduce the new measured service rate. The company probably will combat such an order. From this fight should develop a definite showdown.

Nothing should be left undone in carrying on the fight in behalf of the public. The commission, if its orders are not permitted to stick, should not hesitate to appeal its case to the Supreme Court of the United States. Money spent in such a fight is money well spent.

Thousands for the establishment of the rights of the people, but not one cent for double profits for the telephone trust.

## ANOTHER FOURTH OF JULY

ONE HUNDRED and forty-eight years ago today a group of men who believed, what Woodrow Wilson later uttered, that "the right is more precious than peace" signed a document defying King George of England to do his worst and started this country on its way as an independent nation. It was an experiment in independence. It was followed some years later by the Constitution, an experiment in self-government.

We wonder today, as we again celebrate the signing of that impudent document, what the fathers of our country would think if they could see us today. Would they be proud of the manner in which their ideas and ideals have been carried out, or would they be grieved at our perversion of their original intentions. We wonder.

Recently in Cleveland there was a demonstration of the self-government that they planned. A candidate picked by a few men in a back room because he represented their particular ideas of a man who would give them what they wanted was nominated. In New York we have a political convention turned into a war between religions.

What would the signers of the Declaration of Independence have thought of a religious fight in American politics? What would they have thought of such a controversy in a country the very foundations of which rest on the right of freedom of worship?

The American Government is an accumulation rather than a growth. It has become all cluttered up with selfish interests.

We know that this is not making the eagle scream in the accepted Fourth of July manner. But what is an anniversary if not a time to pause and take stock?

Perhaps we need a new Declaration of Independence, declaring that we will be free from all the rubbish that has accumulated in our national home since the original Declaration was signed. Let's get back to fundamentals.

## BOB WILL BE WELCOME

WITH a middle of the road platform and convention on dead center, the Democrats offer little hope of an open door to the host of American voters who seek to get definitely away—far away—from colorless, machine-ridden, so-called two-party politics.

Two distinct parties, with definite and opposite theories of government are normal and necessary. So far, they do not exist.

The two old parties are as like as peas in a pod. But there must be, and will be a whole-hearted liberal and idealistic protest vote no matter who is for it, no matter who is against it. This is an outstanding fact of this campaign year.

Under the circumstances, the expected La Follette candidacy is certain to be welcomed by the disgusted independent voters of both old parties with an enthusiasm that will keep the professional politicians guessing hard between now and election day—and maybe guessing harder afterward.

Senator La Follette needs no introduction, no ponderous convention to nominate him, no formally written platform to set forth his views.

After his years of a fearless and consistent service at Washington he himself needs nothing. It is a large body of the American people who need and look forward to an opportunity of voting for him, and the things he stands for.

Considering the situation that this country is in today, considering the low ebb to which their job-holding leaders and campaign contributors have brought the honor and reputations of the two major parties this newspaper recognizes the need of a new party such as would be crystallized in the La Follette candidacy.

This newspaper is not afraid of a single one of the planks in the Wisconsin La Follette platform. At least we do know that not one of them was dictated or revised by Wall Street or any other form of invisible government.

AN EASTERN song writer has been sent to jail, but it wasn't justice, for he was not the yes-banana fellow.

## The Art of Doing Proper Thing

Our Washington Bureau's latest bulletin offering, TRAVEL ETIQUETTE, is filled with the answers to the questions you want answered on the "proper thing to do" under all circumstances when travelling. The etiquette of the train, of the ship, of the hotel—all are covered. If you wish a copy of this bulletin, fill out and mail as directed the coupon below:

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